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## Banner News

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2009 Boone Campus  
Graduates P.6



Spring Concerts  
Friday & Saturday

# BANNER NEWS

Des Moines Area Community College Boone Campus

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 Vol. 8, No. 14

Hannah Quinn

Staff Writer

Two of DMACC's talented musical groups will be performing for students, friends and family on May 1 and 2.

Beginning on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium, DMACC students who have been taking piano and guitar lessons for credit will perform a Tribute to the Beatles. Their play list will include classic Beatles' songs such as "Twist and Shout," "Yellow Submarine," "Michelle," "A Little Help From My Friends" and "Yesterday."

"The show is designed for families," said instructor Marilee Crawley-Mertins.

The stage will be set with nine guitar players, five pianos and also students who will be singing.

Jeremy Davenport, 34, of Boone, who has been a self-taught guitar player since the age of 16, and Sean O'Neal, 20, of Boone, who plays piano and guitar, will be two of the musicians who will be performing on Friday.

Following the Friday concert, the Boone Campus choir will begin their show at 3 p.m. on May 2, also in the auditorium.

The choir consists of nine members – three men and six women – who have been rehearsing three days a week throughout the semester in preparation for their performance.

"We are doing more challenging music," said Kara Sickau, 19, of Boone.

## Sounds of music Students prepare for spring concerts



Photo by Craig Vandeventer

Steve Hoifeldt, choral director on the Boone Campus, sits at the piano as the choir rehearses for Saturday's concert.

## Commencement May 8

Shane Meier

Staff Writer

The semester is drawing to a close and for some students graduation is quickly approaching.

At the beginning of the semester graduating students were given the choice of attending a graduation ceremony that will take place on May 8, at 10a.m. with a reception afterwards.

"Approximately 140 students will be going through the ceremony, the total number graduating about twice that," said Assistant Provost Brian Green. "There are three graduations... in Boone, Carroll, and Ankeny. Newton, Urban, and West Des Moines

combine with Ankeny." The Ankeny campus funds pay for the graduation ceremonies.

A number of students will be given special honors for participating in certain clubs like PBL and Phi Theta Kappa "We don't have a valedictorian," said Green. The students who are being honored will wear different colored cords, signifying which group they were a part of.

There will be two speakers this year. "Greg Martin is one guest speaker," said Green, "a former DMACC Boone Campus student [who] graduated in 1976. The student speaker this year is Jacob McLaughlin from Perry and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

McLaughlin was chosen, based on the reason that he personifies DMACC culture.

Graduation will proceed with opening speeches by DMACC dignitaries, Honorary diplomas will be handed out to the two DMACC students who were killed last semester.

Graduating students will then be ushered in and given their diplomas. The choir will perform during this time.

After the graduation ceremony there will be a reception with food and refreshments. During this time the nursing students will receive their pins and be honored.



Marilee Crawley-Mertins

Brittany Banks, 19 of Ames and Michelle Leininger, 21 of Ames, both sopranos in the choir, accompanied Sickau, an alto/tenor in the choir, during one of their recent rehearsals.

Songs from "Wicked," "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "The Lord of the Rings" will be some of the music featured at the concert.

"[This choir] is one of the best sounding groups on campus, and they have been able to learn more music this semester," said Steve Hoifeldt, choral director.

Both concerts are free and feature students who have been taking music courses for credits and as extracurricular activities.

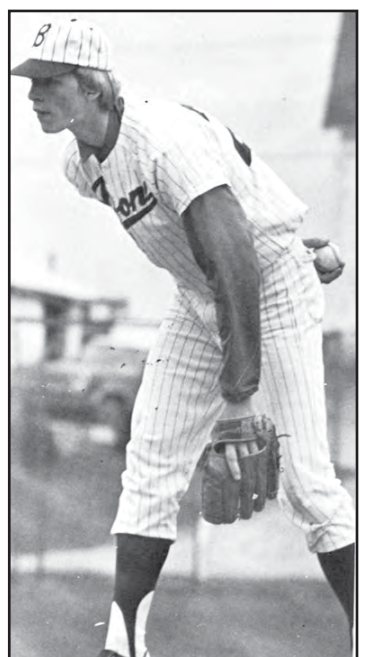


Photo from Cub '75

Greg Martin, 1976 graduate  
2009 Commencement Speaker

May 8

Graduation 10 a.m

May 27

Summer Term Begins  
May 27 - August 6

June 2

Last day to add  
class for summer term

August 26

Fall Term Begins  
August 26 - Dec. 15



## Final Exam Schedule for Spring 2009

### Monday, May 4, 2009 Monday/Wednesday/Friday or more courses

#### Class Time Range Exam Time

8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. .... 8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
10:10 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. .... 10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
12:20 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. .... 1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.  
2:30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. .... 3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 5, 2009 Tuesday/Thursday courses

#### Class Time Range Exam Time

6:30 a.m. - 7:55 a.m. .... 6:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.  
9:40 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. .... 9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
12:50 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. .... 11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 6, 2009 Monday/Wednesday/Friday or more courses

#### Class Time Range Exam Time

6:55 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. .... 7:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.  
9:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. .... 9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
11:15 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. .... 12:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
1:25 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. .... 2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
3:35 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. .... 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 7, 2009 Tuesday/Thursday courses

#### Class Time Range Exam Time

8:05 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. .... 8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
11:15 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. .... 10:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
2:25 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. .... 1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. - 5:25 p.m. .... 3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

### Evening/Saturday Final Exam Schedule

Evening courses have their final exams at the time and day of the final, regular class meeting:

Last Monday night classes (Final Exam)----- May 4  
Last Tuesday night classes (Final Exam)----- April 28  
Last Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)----- April 29  
Last Thursday night classes (Final Exam)----- April 30  
Last Friday night classes (Final Exam)----- May 1  
Last Monday/Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)----- May 4

## Writers to read original work

Boone Campus professor Sam Pritchard invites students, faculty and staff to be audience for creative writing students, who

will be reading original work this week on Wednesday or Friday 10:10 – 11:15 a.m. in the Boone Campus Library.

## Registration Plus

**DMACC**--Students registering for Fall 2009 classes and finalize their tuition payment plans before July 10, can defer their final tuition payment due date until Sept. 4, 2009.

To accomplish this, students need to complete the following steps:

1. Register for classes.
2. Select and complete one of the following payment options:
  - a. Pay bill in-full through one of the following methods – online, in-person, by mail or by phone; or
  - b. Establish an active FACTS payment plan; online
  - c. Provide DMACC Student

Accounts with documentation that tuition will be paid for by a third party; or

d. Submit a completed FAFSA and turn in all required documents to DMACC; or

e. Pay a \$200 nonrefundable deposit that will be applied to the tuition balance.

#### Anticipated benefits

Students register early for optimal course selection and pay later.

Establish firm payment method prior to start of term.

Avoid stress of last minute rush and limited class choice.

Go to [www.dmacc.edu/registrationplus](http://www.dmacc.edu/registrationplus) for more information.

## Healthcare Center in Ankeny available to all students

**DMACC** -- The Des Moines Area Community College Campus Health Center is located on the Ankeny Campus but is for students at any of the DMACC campus locations.

The Campus Health Office is located in the new Health Science Building 24 in RM 103. The clinic is staffed with a full time RN, Sandra Foster.

Foster's office hours are M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. during fall and spring semesters and 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. during summer semester. These hours are only when the students are on campus.

The clinic offers a variety of services for our students. DMACC has a Nurse Practitioner on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., who will see currently enrolled DMACC students for free regarding their health concerns or needs.

Campus Health also offers immunizations (Hepatitis B, Tetanus/Diphtheria, and TB testing), assessment of minor illness-injury/emergency first aid, physicals (appointments mandatory), basic lab testing and health care referrals to local health care providers.

Foster also teaches CPR/FA classes on a limited basis upon request.

Another service that the office is now offering to students is Women's Health Services. Visiting Nurse Services, Venus Family Planning Clinic comes to the Campus Health Office on Wednesdays when the students are on campus from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and will see students for pap smears, breast exams, family planning needs, sexually transmitted infection testing/treatment/education and counseling.

Gardasil injections and some limited male and female family planning methods are available.

Appointments are encouraged for all services and are mandatory for physicals.

Students are invited to call campus health at 515-964-6352 with any concerns or questions.

If students are on campus for any reason they may stop into campus health for any of their health needs or concerns and, hopefully, the services offered would be worth their trip to the Ankeny Campus.



Congratulations  
Graduates  
From The  
Campus Cafe

Amy Mortensen  
&  
Jacob Balough

Thanks for all your help  
from us at the Campus  
Cafe

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The Best of Luck



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Boone High School senior Carli Bunning (front row, center) signs a national letter of intent to play basketball at Des Moines Area Community College. Others participating in the signing ceremony are DMACC Head Women’s Basketball Coach Steve Krafcisin (front row, left to right), Bunning and Boone Head Women’s Basketball Coach Jerry Hales, Boone Assistant Coach John Rouse (back row, left to right), Carli Bunning’s mom--Cyndi Bunning and Carli’s dad--Dan Bunning.

PCM senior to play ball in fall

Katlyn Wood, a 6’ 0” forward from Prairie City Monroe (PCM) High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College.

Wood averaged 13.8 points and a team high seven rebounds per game while leading the Mustangs to a sub-state appearance and a 21-3 record.

Wood was a unanimous two time All Conference selection and was twice named to the All-District and All-Regions teams. In addition, she was an Iowa Girls Coaches Association Third Team selection as a junior and a Second Team selection as a senior. She was also selected to the 2009 Gatorade All-Star Game.

She also excels in the classroom. Wood has been on the honor roll every semester of high school and has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years.



Prairie City Monroe High School senior Katlyn Wood Taking part in the signing ceremony was Katlyn’s dad, Dan Wood.



Tyler Robbins is having another solid season for the Bears as he is hitting .368 for the season and has 14 doubles, 3 homeruns and 25 RBI’s. Robbins, a 2008 NJCAA 1st Team All-American and ICCAC Player of the Year has signed a national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, TX with former DMACC Baseball Coach Travis Wyckoff.

Boone senior signs letter of intent

Carli Bunning, a 6’ 0” forward from Boone High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

Bunning was the leading scorer and leading rebounder for the Boone Toreadors this past season. She averaged 12.5 points and

10.6 rebounds per game.

Bunning was a four-year varsity letter athlete. She was a unanimous First Team All Conference selection and named to the All-District team both her junior and senior seasons. She has also been named to the honor roll every semester at Boone High School.

I-K-M girl signs letter of intent to play basketball at DMACC

Caitlin Axland, a 5’ 9” guard from I-K-M Manning High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College .

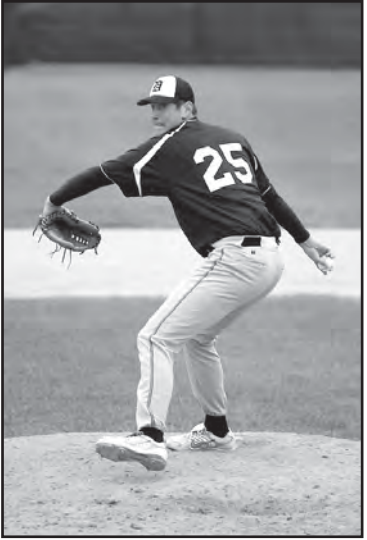
Axland averaged 10.2 points per game and was a key player in helping the I-K-M Manning Wolves advance to the Class 2A State Basketball Championship and a 26-2 record.

Axland was selected to the All Area Second Team and was named to the All West Valley Conference Honorable Mention Team. She was also voted the offensive player of the year by her teammates.



Caitlin Axland

**Congratulations to Madi Fischels and Sam Pingel for qualifying as individuals for the National Golf Tournament in Daytona Beach, Florida on May 18-21.**



Mitch Mormann is one of three pitchers with seven wins for the Bears for the 2009 season. Mormann was selected in 17th round of the 2008 Major League Baseball Draft but decided to return to DMACC for his sophomore season. Mormann was a 2009 NJCAA Preseason Third Team All-American and has signed a national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Louisiana State Univeristy in Baton Rouge, La.

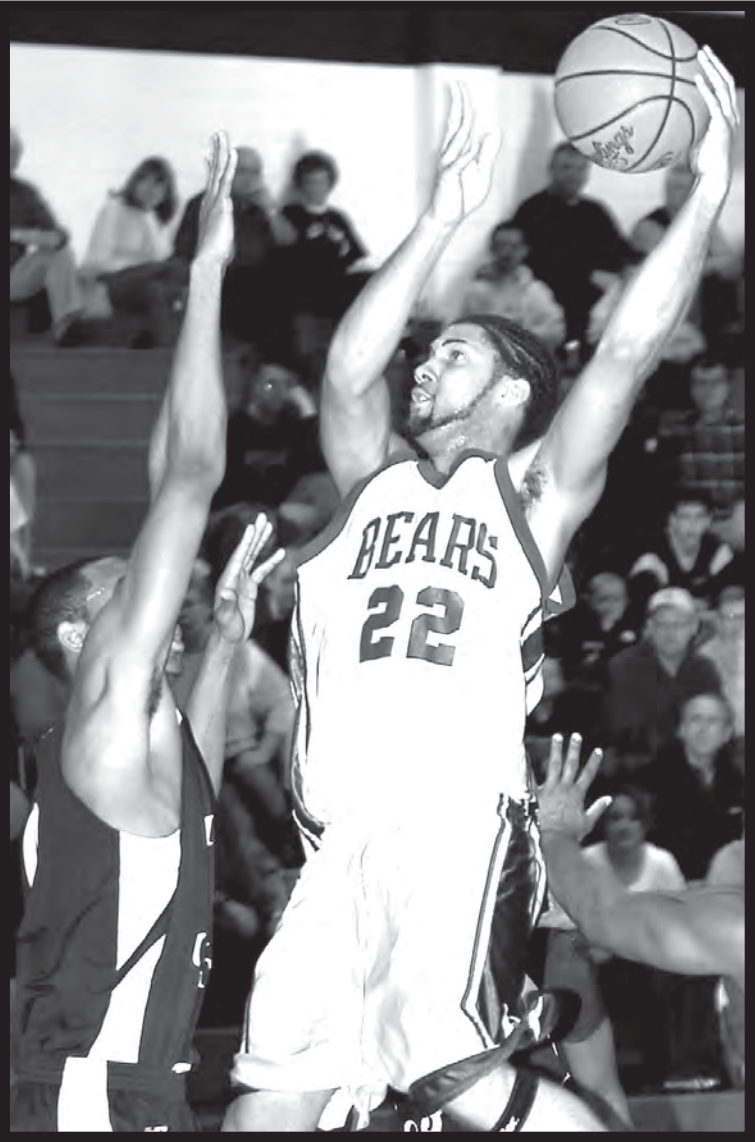
Lincoln High senior signs

Laurie Tremain, a 6’ 2” center from Des Moines Lincoln High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Des Moines Area Community College.



Laurie Tremain

“Laurie brings energy and enthusiasm in a 6’ 2” frame to DMACC,” said DMACC Head Women’s Basketball Coach Steve Krafcisin. “Laurie is a tall, determined young woman who loves the game of basketball. She had good skills and a very good work ethic that will help her develop into a very good college player within the next two years.”



Windom named to All-American team

DMACC--Scott Windom, of Cartersville, Georgia has been named a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Third Team All-American. Windom is a freshman on the men’s basketball team at DMACC.

Earlier in the year, Windom was named to the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Division II Men’s All-Region

First Team. He was also named ICCAC player of the week twice this season.

“Scott is a good player who only got better as the season progressed,” said DMACC Head Men’s Basketball Coach Orv Salmon.

Windom, a 6’ 5” forward, led the Bears in scoring averaging 15.1 points per game.



# Students make memorable trip to Paris

**Chloe Coulter & Sacha Chandavong**

*London Correspondents*



**Chloe Coulter**



**Sacha Chandavong**

**B**efore arriving in Paris, we had a preconceived notion of how it the next four days would unfold. Excited we were, but also curious at the same time. Everything we'd seen in photographs, television and books were just minutes away. To say this experience was negative would be an understatement. It turned out to be more positive than negative because we learned to deal with our frustrations and make the most out of what Paris had to offer. It was a Tuesday night when we'd arrived in The City of Lights. The Eurostar Train hoisted us out of London to an unknown territory. We arrived from King's Cross International Station to Gare du Nord Station in just 2 and a half hours time. We had some trouble communicating with the locals because of the language barrier. However, learning French in high school and middle school helped tremendously with conversing and reading signs.

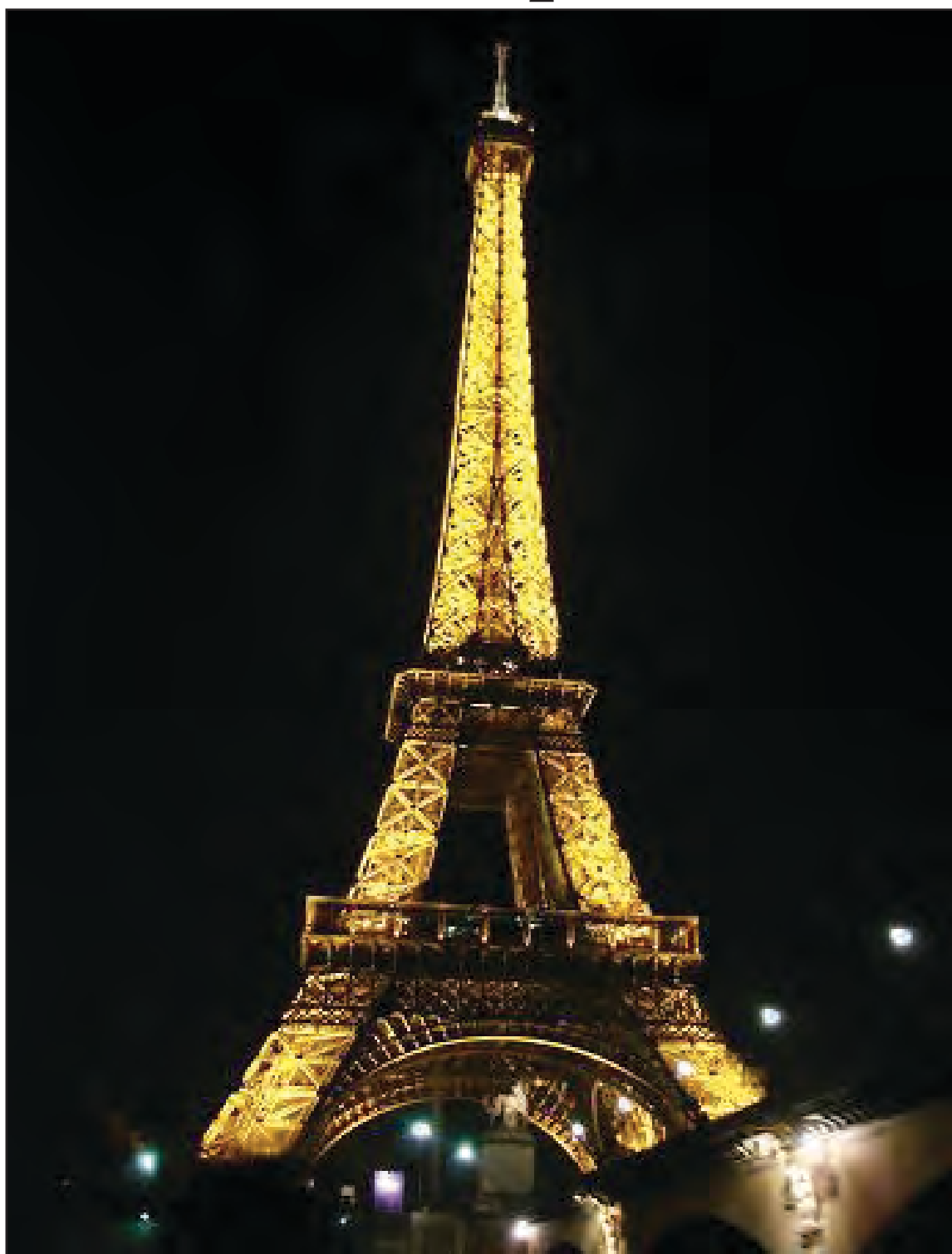
The first night was the most memorable of all. It consisted of many memories that will never be forgotten. Everything that transpired in the midst of four hours alone was something we would never forget. Minding our business, we were harassed by gypsies and pick pocketers all trying to lure us into giving up our money. Frightened and confused, we hurriedly rushed through a swarm of men to the hostel called Friends Hostel. Upon arrival, we checked in our luggage and headed to Sacre-Coeur to meet the rest of the group.

The next few days were a cluster of museums, cathedrals, sights and sounds. The night before was behind us and we wished for no more sudden surprises. While immersing ourselves in Parisian culture, we could see painters seated along the riverside to souvenir shops literally attached wall to wall lined along the streets. Through every corner and alley, cuisines of all kinds were offered. Some employees standing outside each of their restaurants invited us to come inside for a meal. One of our priorities was to try the Escargot. There was no way we could leave France without experiencing the local cuisine. At first, we were hesitant but we soon realized how delicious it was. These foreign creatures were still locked in their shells of which we had to skewer them out of. Satisfied with our first experience, we ended up sampling Escargot a few other cafés throughout the trip. We also

visited a few cathedrals. The Notre Dame and Saint-Chapelle gave us a taste of Parisian cathedrals which were amazing in its detailed beauty and historical value.

The museums also taught us about the history and its significance to France. Of every museum we visited, the Louvre Museum was our favorite. It held the famous Mona Lisa and Aphrodite. It also boasts to be one of the largest museums in the world and by walking inside; we were immediately appalled by the size of this structure and the crowds of people that swarmed into one area. Out of all the sights we experienced, the main attraction that intrigued us most was the Eiffel Tower. Being confident and bold, we climbed the stairs with the rest of the group to the first level. Others were feeling risky and decided to go for the second level. The panoramic view was exhilarating and overwhelming since we were so high above ground. At night, the tower beamed with golden light that lit the sky. Never did we think that we'd be able to visit the Eiffel Tower. We were standing on one of the most recognized structures in the world.

Though the first night caught us off guard, we still had fun. Negative or positive, they are still memories. Most of which we are sure will be told years from now. It was never easy for us to adjust outside of our comfort zones ... but we will always remember Paris.



## And Wales...Rugby at the local pub

**By Kate Glassman**

*London Correspondent*

If the king of American sports is football, then rugby rules the European continent. America loves sports - from baseball to hockey, NASCAR to football - and there's no shortage of fans when the seasons' grand finales come around, but bigger than the World Series or the Super Bowl is Europe's Six Nations Championship. There's no room for indifference or wavering loyalties. If you're not cheering for one team, then you're cheering for the enemy. The amount of fervor generated is frankly shocking given that only five matches are played by each team, but even with so few, there's quite a lot more than national pride at stake.

The country with the most wins is granted the Championship Trophy, and if a country is undefeated that it is the Grand Slam. Victory by any Home Nation (England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland) over the other three results in a trophy called the Triple Crown. Newcomers to the tournament, France and Italy are not eligible to win the Triple Crown.

Several other trophies are up for grabs within the main competition, mostly as part of long-

running rivalries between teams. The Calcutta Cup is awarded to the winner of the England versus Scotland game, and the Centenary Quaich is the prize for the Scotland versus Ireland winner. There is also the Giuseppe Garibaldi trophy for France and Italy, and the Millennium Trophy for England versus Ireland. With all these trophies in contention, there's no shortage of competitive attitude (or obsessive fans) when the championship resumes every spring. This year was no different, and I was fortunate enough to be in Ireland when the championship came to its epic climax.

Hours before Ireland kicked off against Wales, the pubs were already filled to the brim and mostly with the green and orange of Ireland, despite some of the pubs insisting they were "Wales-friendly" establishments. I can't imagine what it would have been like had Dublin been hosting the match instead of Cardiff because it seems almost impossible for the fans' enthusiasm to be any higher.

Though we'd only intended to stop in for a bit of late lunch, my family and I actually became trapped inside a local pub due to the sheer mass of people who'd crammed in to watch a match that

wasn't due to start for another three hours. Kids hardly out of primary school were discussing strategy, two girls were arguing over which team had the most aesthetically pleasing kicker, and an old man had commandeered the end of the bar to recount to a group of avid listeners the championship match he'd gone to sixty years ago.

When the match actually began, all decent conversation stopped and the screaming and swearing began. The kitchen staff stopped serving food, the TVs were set to an intolerable volume, and the bartender finally just started leaving pitchers of Guinness on the counter, so he could watch and scream obscenities along with the rest of the pub.

For eighty minutes we were swept up in a rush of adrenaline and increasingly--inappropriate language. Without even knowing the rules of the game, we were screaming our lungs out as if we'd been supporting Ireland all our life and rugby was the only sport we'd ever known.

I toasted a well-made kick with an elderly man in a tweed jacket only to swear a blue streak with the same gentleman when Wales was awarded yet another

(extremely unfair) penalty. All of it boiled down to a nerve-wracking lead for Ireland that only had to withstand one final kick attempt by Wales.

Better than being in Pittsburgh when the Steelers win the Super Bowl, is being in an Irish pub when Ireland wins the Six Nations Cup. The streets of Dublin were flooded with fans sporting Irish green and maniacally waving flags and the half-filled pints they'd run out of pubs with. It was the first time Ireland had won the Grand Slam since 1948, and the fans weren't going to waste one second of it.

Super Bowl celebrations can't hold a candle to the sheer pandemonium that broke out when Wales missed their final kick. By the time I made it back to the hotel at a quarter to ten, the trains were still packed with green-bedecked commuters rehashing the game in boisterous tones, and celebrations were going full strength with no signs of ending. It was a well-deserved win after so long a losing streak, and now Ireland has a whole year to bask in their Grand Slam glory before their title is once more up for grabs in the next thrilling and action-packed Six Nations.





Photo by Dan Ivis

**Literary Arts Festival--**Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville English and Creative Writing Professor and poet, Allison Funk (left) and Portland State University Senior Writer-in-Residence Craig Lesley, read from their works at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Boone Campus as part of

DMACC’s seventh annual Celebration of the Literary Arts. Funk is the author of four books of poems and Lesley is the author of four novels, including two that were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. They also read from their works at the DMACC Ankeny Campus.

# Swine flu infects Mexico, U.S.

**Hannah Quinn**  
*Staff Writer*

Cases of swine influenza A virus have reportedly infected a number of humans in the US. As of April 26, there have been 20 laboratory-confirmed cases and counting, according to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC). Eight of these cases came from a school in New York, where more than 100 students were out with flu-like symptoms last week, according to the CDC. The federal government has declared a public health emergen-

cy as a “precautionary tool” and to ensure the resources needed would be available quickly and effectively. The virus has also been identified internationally in Mexico, where as many as 103 deaths have been related to the virus, and Europe, where the health commissioner advised people to avoid traveling to the US and Mexico. The swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A Influenza virus, and is having a major impact on the swine industry on the US. When it is spread from pig to human and then from human to human, the virus is able to mutate, making it harder to

U.S. Human Cases of Swine Flu Infection (As of April 27, 2009 1:00 PM ET)	
State	# of laboratory confirmed cases
California	7 cases
Kansas	2 cases
New York City	28 cases
Ohio	1 case
Texas	2 cases
<b>TOTAL COUNT</b>	<b>40 cases</b>

treat and control, according to the CDC. Further testing has found the swine influenza A virus is susceptible to prescription antiviral

drugs, which can and will be used as treatment and prevention in settings where the virus has been detected.

## Commentary Editor: This is goodbye

**Craig VandeVenter**  
*Executive Editor*

This will be the last issue of the Banner that I will be serving you on. It is my last semester here in Boone, as I will be transferring to the Ankeny campus in the fall in hopes of a successful writing career for The Chronicle. It has been my pleasure to serve you as the Editor-In-Chief of the Banner Newspaper this past semester. When I first walked in the newsroom door in the fall, I never would have dreamt that after only serving one semester as a staff writer I would end up filling the role of Editor. I wish great things and many thanks to the rest of my staff here at the Banner. Thank you for all that we have worked so hard to achieve together, I couldn’t have done it without you. Last semesters staff, I would not be where I am today

without your help and advice. Thanks so much, it means so much to me. Jan, thank you for all that you have helped me to accomplish and overcome this



Craig VandeVenter--Banner News Editor-in-Chief

year. Your guidance and support will never be forgotten. I look up to you very much and I hope only good things come

your way in the future. As for the rest of you, my fellow students and readers, I wish you the best of luck. We all are human, and part of being human is making mistakes. That just means we’re healthy. No one is this world can say that they are perfect, its just not possible or

logical to say so. I can admit that I have had my own share of mistakes while serving you this year at the Banner. However, I have tried my very best to learn from those mistakes, and to be proud of my work. As should the rest of you, be proud of who you are. One of my most favorite quotes is from the Social and Political Activist, Abbie Hoffman. “Avoid all needle drugs, the only dope worth shooting is Richard Nixon,” Hoffman said. I like this quote because it is so much more than just saying “don’t do drugs,” It is encouragement to stay true to yourself and not to rely on outside influences that may distort your judgment. Go through life being your own person, do what you feel is right for yourself, and more importantly believe that all things are possible. I bid you adieu, and remember to always follow your heart.

# Tips for moving out

## Do you know your options?

**Greg Laraia**  
*Staff Writer*

The end of the semester is just around the corner and that brings up the topic of where to live while not attending school. Do students move back home? Sign a sub-lease? Commit to a 12-month contract? For students living in student housing, moving out is the main option. Since the DMACC apartments are not furnished, students have fair amounts furniture to move out. For students who are planning on living in the Borgen Square apartments for a second year, mini storage is an idea to keep in mind for the summer. Mini storage is a convenient way to store furniture and belongings that do not need to be hauled all the way home for three months. Eastside Mini Storage L.L.C., located in Boone, is a local mini storage business that offers affordable storage. It is located at 2121 Mamie Eisenhower Ave. Its phone number is (515)-432-3854. Prices range from \$30-\$85 per month, depending on the size of storage facility that is needed. When moving out, apartments must be cleaned also so you can get your security deposit back. Cleaning is a pain, but can become easier if you get everyone to help and do their part. Vacuums can be borrowed from the housing office for free student use. All you have to do is give them your ID as collateral. You’ll get your ID back when you bring the vacuum back. Packing up a room full of personal belongings and clothes can be very hectic. That is why you should plan ahead when packing. Give yourself about two to three weeks before your move out date to pack. This way you make sure you have everything that is yours. Pack like-items together; once you get home, unpacking is that much easier and faster. Safeguard fragile or meaningful items, so they do not get broken in transit. Stores like Hy-Vee, Fareway and Wal-Mart usually throw away empty cardboard boxes. These are perfect to use for packing because they are large, free and plentiful. Moving out does not need to be as hard as it may seem. If you plan ahead and obtain the correct supplies and information, moving out can be a breeze.



# Congratulations 2009 DMACC Boone Campus graduates

**HONORARY DEGREES**

**HUMAN SERVICES--AS**  
*Shakena Varnell*

**BUSINESS**  
**ADMINISTRATION--AS**  
*Michael Odikro*

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Reivo Aditya  
Jake Ryan Astor  
SungHwa Bae  
\*Elisabeth Ann Baldus  
Jacob Ryan Balough  
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Tracie Lin Behr  
Tyler Alan Bevard  
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Amanda Christine Borrill  
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Patrick John Cooper  
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Samantha Nicole Duncan +  
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Mechelle Angelique Sikes

**\* = Fall Graduate**  
**+ = Honor Student**  
**(Gold Cords – 3.50 GPA**  
**and above)**



# Video games not to blame

Shane Meier  
*Layout Editor*

As a gamer or a parent you hear about it all the time. Children and young adults who have committed acts of random violence at school and becoming evermore socially withdrawn.

As a parent you probably feel like you don't know who or what to believe. The Media, elements of the government, certain interest groups would have you believe that they are the devil incarnate. Forgive my blunt speech, but this goes a bit too far as any logical human being could tell you. Bare in mind I do not completely disagree with these groups and I do agree that video games can be bad for teen and young adults.

Though these issues do exist they're not as bad as they seem with a few notable exceptions. Let me explain why I believe this.

The first thing these interest groups attack is the violence found in video games. Again I do agree violent video games can cause children to develop more aggressive behavior. I seriously doubt that there is any real connection between that and the violent acts committed by teens and young adults. Groups who make this case typically use case studies and statistics to support their claims.

While these studies show that there is a correlation between these two factors the evidence is largely inconclusive. The reason for this is that the studies are usually biased and conducted poorly. The scientific studies they have conducted tend to use the most violent games available, games that were not meant for children in the first place nor are the violence in them typical for the average game.

In addition, these groups often perform them and they tend to conduct these studies using shoddy experiment methods. As for the correlation it is important to note that a correlation only means that the two events occurred at the same time it does not mean that the two events occur as a result of one another. The real reason I believe this to be true is because

of my own personal experiences and observations from my fellow gamers and I have seen while playing video games. I noticed that playing them actually reduces stress and aggression levels in teens and young adults and is one of the main reasons they play them in the first place.

As a side argument to their objections about video games, parents will often point out that video games are not accurately labeled for content. This claim is untrue because the video game industry has a regulatory body that marks games for their ratings, the ESRB. The ESRB or Entertainment Software Rating Board's, system is actually better than its government run counterparts. Which are the norm for other medias. It is better because in addition to having a letter rating like movie ratings do, it also has a box where they give a brief description on what the content of the game really is. In addition to this they also display the rating of the game big and bold on the front and back of the cover.

I will admit that the rating system set by the ESRB isn't perfect but it is still better then the other government system. The major problem with the system is that it can only rate games. It can't keep them from getting into the hands of children. Major game retailers try to stop this by not selling mature rated games to minors.

The problem occurs when parents disregard these ratings and buy the mature games for their kids. Parents can prevent this by heeding the rating on the cover of the game.

Another concern parents often express is that by playing video games their children become socially isolated. Again I would agree with them that under the right conditions and with the right child this is indeed possible, but the instances of this are only with certain groups of children.

From my own experience I can tell you that when they do isolate themselves in this manner, there is usually a reason behind it. The most important thing to remember is that children and people in general for that matter play video games for a variety of rea-

sons. Children in particular often play violent video games because they are stressed out and need to blow off steam so naturally they seclude themselves in their rooms and play them.

Despite media bias and the accusations made by certain interest groups video games often have the exact opposite effect in that they often help kids become more social. This happens because kids often play them in groups they will play multi-player games either on or off line where they have to work together in order to complete an objective. I know from experience that kids socialize even when they are playing a single player game. I remember doing so with my brother. Where either he or I would play the game and the other would sit there and offer support.

Nevertheless kids can become socially isolated under the right conditions. The best way for parents to avoid this is to monitor their kid's behavior. Keep a look out for acting out in school, and bad attitudes at home. Though these episodes seem like deviant behavior they are often cries for help. The best advice I can give you for this situation is to just be there for them.

Overall, video games have their own problems. At this time I wish to remind you that I'm not completely against your accusations. I grew up playing video games and I am fully aware of any problems having faced them myself in the past. I like many others, have at times gotten mad and frustration as a result of certain things occurring in the game.

This anger and frustration has always been defused by yelling at the television and throwing the controller across the room in most cases.

As a result of these incidents I agree with you that these are problems that need addressing at some level or another. Nevertheless I feel that many interest groups do get a bit carried away of their judgment of video games. I hope that my argument will make a few of you see the other side of the argument and it allows you to make a more informed decision on this issue.



# Marriage O.K. for all people



Craig VandeVenter  
*Executive Editor*

Discrimination is wrong. Be it racial discrimination, religious discrimination or the discrimination of one's sexual preference. All citizens' of the United States of America should all be created equally, as well as share the same rights regardless of any of their beliefs that they hold.

The injustice that people in this society have been doing to their gay and lesbian brothers and sisters is downright immoral and unconstitutional. The sacrament of marriage is one of those rights protected by the constitution, even if it is shared between two men or two women.

To only allow civil unions between same-sex couples is the exact same treatment that African-Americans received from society with being segregated during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s. We all know how that worked out,

every person who was in favor of separate but equal realized that they were wrong and ended up with egg all over their face.

I would think that Americans would learn from the terrible decisions that were made in the past and relate them to our everyday lives today.

Some say they are uncomfortable with the thought of gays and lesbians marrying. Our rights as Americans protect each and every one of us. We are not granted our rights by what people in society think about our decisions but by the rights that are guaranteed to us by the Constitution.

It is important for Americans to realize what they have been doing wrong in the past and to accept people for who they are based on their character rather than their sexual preference in life. People are people and should continue to be treated that way. Not as something lower in the food chain as we have done in the past with minorities in this country.

The saying Let freedom ring from sea to shinning sea should stick out in our minds, because that is what this country was built upon. The freedom of all human beings no matter their skin color or sexual preference is indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## CORRECTION

The photo on Page 1 (Banner News, April 15) incorrectly identified the three women in the PBL photo.

They are left to right Linda Plueger, PBL adviser, Jill Siders, and Mikki Winebrenner.

Banner News regrets the error.

## Spring 2009 Banner News Staff

Craig VandeVenter Executive Editor  
Hannah Quinn Staff Writer  
Shane Meier Staff Writer  
Greg Laraia Staff Writer

The Banner News is a student newspaper published bi-weekly at Des Moines Area Community College  
1125 Hancock Drive Boone, Iowa 50036

Letters to the Editor should be submitted to  
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Question of the Week

How did you file your taxes this year?

Tax project

Prepares over 100 returns

Greg Laraia

Staff Writer

Tax season is similar to semester finals--feared by all. Accounting instructor Tim Prindle advised a tax return project this past tax season.

Filing taxes isn't the easiest thing to do. It can be quite costly sometimes also. Prindle and a handful of students helped prepare tax returns for low-income families and elderly couples.

These tax returns were prepared for free by Prindle and five students with help from the Inter-



Tim Prindle

nal Revenue Service.

To be able to prepare tax returns these five students had to pass an exam given by the IRS.

"The biggest benefit of this project is that the students had the rare opportunity to apply accounting concepts in the real world and it gained DMACC positive public exposure," said Prindle.

Five additional students acted as greeters and intake staff.

Prindle participated in a similar tax return project and had a dream to do a similar project in the future when he was an instructor. "Tom Lee [Boone Campus Provost] has been very supportive," said Prindle on the success of this project.

Filing taxes is not a quick thing to do. The project began in October and ended around the time taxes were due.

Around January, Prindle sent out about 30 promotional letters to surrounding churches, schools, daycares and communities to spread the word about his project.

"The promotion helped immensely," said Prindle when asked how effective the letters were. "We also promoted the project on a few local radio stations."

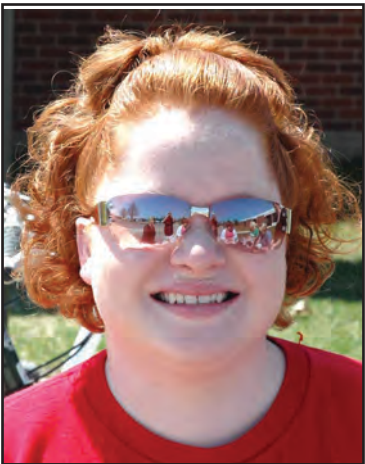
There were 133 total tax returns; 126 of them were electronic while 7 of them were paper.

"There is a special credit given to low wagers by the IRS called an Earned Income tax credit," Prindle explained. This credit is refundable and the person receiving the credit gets a check in the mail. Prindle and students processed \$65,000 Earned Income tax credits. "I have my students to thank for that credit," said Prindle.



Mary Lynn Papin

"Had an accountant."



Kari Necker

"Did them with my husband electronically."



Dong Li

"I didn't file for taxes this year."



Eric Dorr

"Have stuff set up at work in Ames; they take care of it for me."

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